

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments are made to incorporate features from the canceled claim; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is amended to correct antecedent basis.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,768,461 to Heubner et al. (Heubner). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites that a planar element has a cut-out portion formed at an edge portion opposite to the ground pattern side of said planar element. This feature was recited in canceled claim 8 and is shown in Fig. 6, for example.

On the other hand, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 and as described at col. 2, lines 16-19, Heubner specifically teaches that a first element 18 (allegedly corresponding to the recited planar element) has an elliptical shape, preferably circular or round. Heubner does not teach or suggest any cut-out portion, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Heubner.

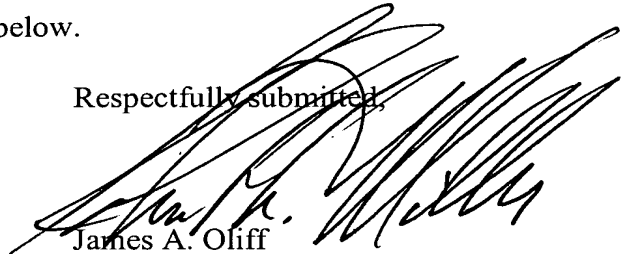
Claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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